

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01999

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
IPC 7 A47J39/02

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A47J

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, WPI Data, PAJ

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

| Category ° | Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages | Relevant to claim No. |
|------------|--|-----------------------|
| X | US 4 102 256 A (JOHN RAYMOND ET AL) 25 July 1978 (1978-07-25) column 6, line 1 -column 7, line 30; figures 3,11-16 --- | 1-5, 23-29 |
| X | US 3 678 248 A (TRICAULT YVES P ET AL) 18 July 1972 (1972-07-18) column 2, line 31 -column 3, line 57; figure 1 --- | 1 |
| A | US 3 978 238 A (FREY IRWIN K ET AL) 31 August 1976 (1976-08-31) the whole document --- | 1 |
| A | US 6 150 635 A (HANNON TODD J ET AL) 21 November 2000 (2000-11-21) the whole document ----- | |

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex.

° Special categories of cited documents :

- "A" document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- "E" earlier document but published on or after the International filing date
- "L" document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- "O" document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- "P" document published prior to the International filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- "T" later document published after the International filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- "X" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- "Y" document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- "&" document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search

30 September 2002

Date of mailing of the International search report

28/10/2002

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fritsch, K

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/EP 02/01999

| Patent document cited in search report | Publication date | Patent family member(s) | | Publication date |
|--|------------------|-------------------------|----------|--|
| US 4102256 | A | 25-07-1978 | | NONE |
| US 3678248 | A | 18-07-1972 | | NONE |
| US 3978238 | A | 31-08-1976 | CA NL | 996170 A1 7309860 A 31-08-1976 22-01-1974 |
| US 6150635 | A | 21-11-2000 | | NONE |